

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #05234-84
13 September 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lieutenant General B. E. Trainor, USMC
Deputy Chief of Staff, US Marine Corps

FROM : Major General Edward B. Atkeson, USA
National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT : NIE 4-1-84, Briefing to Chairman, JCS

1. Regarding your question on Soviet logistic capabilities in the forward area at the Warning of War briefing to the C/JCS, we believe there are now sufficient stocks in the European theater to support a campaign of high combat intensity under conventional conditions for 60 to 90 days. The former attribution of weaknesses in this area have been corrected by a substantial program since the early 1970s. Over the past decade, for example, Soviet ammunition stocks intended to support combat operations in Central Europe have doubled. Vehicle capacity to carry ammunition has also been sharply increased. [redacted]

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2. The provision of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) is unlikely to be a limiting factor for Soviet forces, at least in the initial stages of war. We estimate that there are stocks in the European theater sufficient for at least 90 days of combat. There is also a strategic pipeline system and large quantities of tactical pipeline equipment. Road and rail services have improved and despite peacetime operating difficulties, we believe there is considerable margin of spare capacity compared with likely Soviet transportation requirements between the homeland and Eastern Europe in war. [redacted]

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3. There are several excellent studies available should you wish more detailed intelligence. If so, please call my office [redacted] and we will be pleased to provide you with them. [redacted]

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Edward B. Atkeson

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